

Int'l. Fishing and Related Activities

§ 300.25

§ 300.24 Prohibitions.

In addition to the prohibitions in § 300.4, it is unlawful for any person or vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to:

(a) Land any species of tuna during the closed season for that species in excess of the amount allowed by the Regional Administrator.

(b) Fish on floating objects in the Convention Area using any gear type specified by the Regional Administrator's notification of closure issued under § 300.25;

(c) Use tender vessels in the Convention Area.

(d) Transship purse seine-caught tuna at sea within the Convention Area.

(e) Fail to retain any bigeye, skipjack, or yellowfin tuna brought on board a purse seine vessel in the Convention Area, except fish unfit for human consumption due to spoilage, and except on the last set of the trip if the well capacity is filled;

(f) When using purse seine gear to fish for tuna in the Convention Area, fail to release any non-tuna species as soon as practicable after being identified on board the vessel during the brailing operation;

(g) Land any non-tuna fish species taken in a purse seine set in the Convention Area;

(h) Fail to use the sea turtle handling, release, and resuscitation procedures in § 300.25(e); or

(i) Fail to report information when requested by the Regional Administrator under § 300.22.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 29133, May 28, 1999; 64 FR 44430, Aug. 16, 1999; 66 FR 49320, Sept. 27, 2001. Redesignated and amended at 69 FR 67277, Nov. 17, 2004]

§ 300.25 Eastern Pacific fisheries management.

(a) *Notification of IATTC recommendations.* The Regional Administrator will directly notify owners or agents of U.S. tuna vessels of any fishery management recommendations made by the IATTC and approved by the Department of State that will affect fishing or other activities by U.S. parties with fishery interests in the Convention Area. As soon as practicable after such notification, the Regional Administrator will announce approved IATTC

recommendations in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) *Tuna quotas.* (1) Fishing seasons for all tuna species begin on January 1 and end either on December 31 or when NMFS closes the fishery for a specific species.

(2) The Regional Administrator may close the U.S. fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, or skipjack tuna or any other tuna species in the Convention Area or portion of the Convention Area when advised by the Director of Investigations of the IATTC that the associated quota has been or is projected to be reached. Any such closure may include:

(i) An allowance for an incidental catch that may be landed while fishing for other tuna species;

(ii) A prohibition on the further setting of specified gear types on floating objects by U.S. vessels in the Convention Area;

(iii) Provisions for vessels that are at sea during an announced closure to fish unrestricted until the fishing trip is completed;

(iv) Provisions for vessels at sea with an observer on board during any closure to land fish unrestricted if the landing occurs after December 31; or

(v) Other measures to ensure that the conservation and management measures of the IATTC are achieved.

(3) The Regional Administrator will announce any such closures directly to the owners or agents of U.S. vessels who are fishing in or are eligible to fish in the Convention Area.

(4) As soon as practicable after being advised of the quota attainment or projection under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the Regional Administrator will publish an announcement of the closure in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) *Use of tender vessels.* No person subject to these regulations may use a tender vessel in the Convention Area.

(d) *Transshipments at sea.* No person subject to these regulations may transship purse seine-caught tuna from one vessel to another vessel at sea within the Convention Area.

(e) *Bycatch reduction measures.* (1) Through December 31, 2001, all purse seine vessels must retain on board and land all bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna brought on board the vessel after a set, except fish deemed unfit for

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human consumption for other than reason of size. This requirement shall not apply to the last set of a trip if the available well capacity is insufficient to accommodate the entire fish catch brought on board.

(2) All purse seine vessels must release all sharks, billfishes, rays, mahimahi (*dorado*), and other non-tuna fish species, except those being retained for consumption aboard the vessel, as soon as practicable after being identified on board the vessel during the brailing operation.

(3) All purse seine vessels must apply special sea turtle handling and release procedures, as follows:

(i) Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, a speedboat shall be stationed close to the point where the net is lifted out of the water to assist in release of the turtle;

(ii) If a turtle is entangled in the net, net roll shall stop as soon as the turtle comes out of the water and shall not resume until the turtle has been disentangled and released;

(iii) If, in spite of the measures taken under paragraphs (e)(3)(i) and (ii) of this section, a turtle is accidentally brought onboard the vessel alive and active, the vessel's engine shall be disengaged and the turtle shall be released as quickly as practicable;

(iv) If a turtle brought on board under paragraph (e)(3)(iii) of this section is alive but comatose or inactive, the resuscitation procedures described in § 223.206(d)(1)(i)(B) of this title shall be used before release of the turtle.

[64 FR 44431, Aug. 16, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 49320, Sept. 27, 2001. Redesignated at 69 FR 67277, Nov. 17, 2004]

Subpart D—South Pacific Tuna Fisheries

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 973–973r.

§ 300.30 Purpose and scope.

This subpart implements the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (Act) and the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America (Treaty) and applies to persons and vessels subject

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to the jurisdiction of the United States.

§ 300.31 Definitions.

In addition to the terms defined in § 300.2, in the Act, and in the Treaty, and unless the context requires otherwise, the terms used in this subpart have the following meanings. If a term is defined differently in § 300.2, the Act, or the Treaty, the definition in this section shall apply.

Administrator means the individual or organization designated by the Pacific Island Parties to act on their behalf under the Treaty and notified to the United States.

Applicable national law means any provision of law of a Pacific Island Party that is described in paragraph 1(a) of Annex I of the Treaty.

Authorized inspector means any individual authorized by a Pacific Island Party or the Secretary to conduct inspections, to remove samples of fish, and to gather any other information relating to fisheries in the Licensing Area.

Authorized officer means any officer who is authorized by the Secretary, or the Secretary of Transportation, or the head of any Federal or state agency that has entered into an enforcement agreement with the Secretary under section 10(a) of the Act.

Authorized party officer means any officer authorized by a Pacific Island Party to enforce the provisions of the Treaty.

Closed area means any of the closed areas identified in Schedule 2 of Annex I of the Treaty.

Fishing means searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting fish; attempting to search for, catch, take, or harvest fish; engaging in any other activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; placing, searching for, or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment such as radio beacons; any operations at sea directly in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this paragraph; or aircraft use, relating to the activities described in this definition, except for flights in emergencies involving the health or